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How the 'smart meter' made us homeless

by Chris Johnson



Up until last week, I was relatively unconcerned with the whole smart-meter thing. Not that I didn't believe the smart meters were worth protesting against, just that it wasn't high on the list of things that the government has me outraged about ...

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About Street Newz

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just another rant

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I've been thinking a lot lately about the power of choices, decisions we make or don't or can't make, and how every tiny selection has profound impacts on everything else in our lives. And possibly the lives of others too.

In a previous *Street Newz* I announced that I'd decided to travel to Cuba this summer with the Pastors for Peace humanitarian aid caravan. For various reasons I've changed my mind, partly because of new laws in the USA that enable authorities to arrest and detain, without explanation or cause, any foreign citizen. We like to think the choices we make are our own, but so often they're connected to decisions that others make.

I thank my doggie client friends for encouraging this contemplation. We're unable to go to the beach past May 1st, even if there's absolutely nobody there in the early mornings or evenings, so instead we wandered through the neighbourhood. One day one of the doggies stopped in his tracks, determined to cross the road. I didn't understand why he wanted to cross at that particular place, but then I noticed a narrow path between two fenced yards that I'd never seen before. What a brilliant idea somebody had way back when, to allow access mid-block so people aren't limited to sidewalks attached to busy roads. They stole this land, but some of them at least had some good ideas about how to organize it.

We're approaching another summer, a season when everything seems possible, even in this economy. There are decisions to make. Should I tend a garden plot and grow my own food, volunteer on a local organic farm, or figure out ways to earn enough money to buy my food from a local farmer? This decision will influence how I spend my time, what I learn, and who I'll cross paths with the next few months.

A friend of mine finds herself unemployed in her mid-life. She's wondering what's next, what are the options available to her now that she's more experienced, more emotionally mature, and which options are off the table because she's physically older and perceived as less employable? She would like to combine her concerns about the direction her city is evolving with the knowledge she's accumulated as a social worker. Would that path best be served by returning to school or by investing her time in volunteer projects? If the latter, where should she volunteer? How she chooses to focus her energy will have an impact on who she meets, what she learns, and which opportunities she finds, or perhaps misses.

I'm familiar with that feeling, it's where I was when the *Street Newz* was born. Everywhere I looked there was a significantly important issue or concern. The *Street Newz* was manifested from a quest for meaningful work, right livelihood, and thanks to a supportive family and network of friends, we're still here eight years later. Unfortunately, the list of work that needs to be done hasn't shortened much over the years. Those who criticize the "Occupy" movement as lacking direction might read the collective statement from OWS (published on page 7), choose a focus, and contribute some time and effort towards whatever change they'd like to see.

In a new documentary called *Ethos* (vimeo.com/24706064), Woody Harrelson (a vegan) says: "No company will continue a practice or a product that you the consumer will not buy. It's vitally important that you understand this because this gives you ultimate power to change the world you live in. Companies are extremely sensitive about you buying their products because if you don't buy their stuff, they go out of business. That's not something any company is willing to consider. And by choosing to spend your money wisely, you can promote those companies that do business in a socially responsible way."

It's unfortunate, tragic, that so often the choices we're able to make are limited because of financial circumstances. On a recent food shopping adventure, I crossed paths with Cindy L'Hirondelle who's been known, for many years (decades even), for her work advocating for a Guaranteed Livable Income (www.livableincome.org). Imagine how much work could be accomplished if people didn't have to think about how to pay the rent month to month, or weren't constantly looking for affordable new places to live. If we were each

guaranteed sufficient funds to accommodate our basic needs, or if we had access to a sliding scale economy where people who have more pay more and people who have less pay less, we could get on with the work that needs to be done to create a more efficient, sustainable, healthy world. And economic equality would already be part of it.

The other day I was stopped at a traffic light downtown, on my bike, when someone ran across the street yelling "why aren't you doing what I'm doing, why aren't you helping with the mental ... [something]." I thought about that as I returned to my doggie

clients' home. I could drop everything and follow her, find out what was so important in that moment that she was running towards it, but that would leave my doggie friends hungry and deprived of a necessary pee outing, which would leave me feeling terrible, and could lead to losing my doggie clients altogether. And then I would lose the additional income I need to keep the *Street Newz* alive, income that's especially important now that I've spoken publicly against Vancity's associations with Enbridge and Suncor and potentially jeopardized any future funding opportunities with them.

I wasn't able to respond to the woman's implied accusations, that I wasn't doing enough, or that I wasn't doing the right thing in that moment - I'm not really clear what her intention actually was. I didn't have a chance to explain how I work every single day, with very few exceptions, coordinating the various components of the *Street Newz*, or recording and organizing for radio shows, or updating websites, or sharing news and participating in insightful discussions about important issues on facebook and twitter, or

live and in person at coffee houses and public forums and meetings.

It's true that I sometimes choose to selfishly indulge in pleasurable activities like yoga, music, theatre, and hikes through what remains of BC's beautiful wilderness. I have responsibilities to my doggie clients, and I feel it's important to find time for family, friends and my balcony garden. Then there's the time I spend doing the maintenance of life - cooking, cleaning, paying the bills, servicing my bike so it remains functional. These are decisions I make, this is the way I've chosen to organize my life, and I'm happy here. I am not you, I wanted to say to the woman who asked me to drop everything and do what she was doing. I am not you, and perhaps our collective efforts are better served by appreciating what others are doing, rather than unfairly criticizing each other for not doing precisely what we think they should be.

One bitter-sweet decision I made recently was about switching printers. Since 2004 this newspaper has been printed on 100% post consumer recycled newsprint at Horizon Publications in Vancouver. Last I checked, there isn't a printer on Vancouver Island that offers recycled. Think about that next time you chuck that stack of ad flyers in the bin. Anyways, a few years ago Byron Sheardown left Horizon and founded his own company - International Web Express (www.intwebexpress.com). Byron and his partner Monika are very active in Vancouver's activist community, and he made us an offer we really couldn't turn down. I was hesitant to leave Horizon because we have no qualms with them, but I'm happy to be supporting Byron's new venture. We were offered an opportunity to upgrade paper stock to FSC approved, but when I learned that certification doesn't mean it's 100% pc recycled (made directly from the stuff you throw in your blue bin), I opted out.

Victoria is a city blessed with a diversity of voices advocating for significant change in all directions. Through the years we've lost some wonderful activists who simply can't afford to live here anymore. But some of us are holding on, we believe we have that right, that it's

nowhere decreed that this beautiful island was created as a playground for the ultra rich. This summer, several groups and individuals have chosen to travel across Canada demanding change. You can check my blog or facebook page for updates from them should you choose.

Photo above: Lisa Helps continues the work of former councillor Philippe Lucas, establishing the Small Steps Edible Garden outside City Hall.

Photo below: Bob Macdonald, host of *Quirks and Quarks* on CBC Radio, spoke eloquently at Victoria's Earth Day about the impact of our choices on our amazing and fragile planet.



How the 'Smart Meter' made us homeless continued from cover

An article that appeared in last weeks Monday Magazine (Smart Meters are Faulty, www.monday-mag.com/opinion/148966215.html), about widespread reports of over-billing, has shed some light on a problem we'd been having with our landlord.

I live in a nice little house in Saanich with a friend and her two young children. She moved in around December, and I moved in a few months later.

Utilities, such as electricity, are included in the rent, and the bills go to the landlord.

Just after my roommate moved into the unit, a smart meter was installed.

When the first bill came in, it was double what the landlord was used to paying, and she confronted my roommate about her use of the laundry machines. (She uses cloth diapers and does a lot of laundry, but I calculated the costs of this. 7-8 loads a week, always in cold water, at the maximum rate of 10 cents per kWh should only come to \$18/month.)

My roommate immediately challenged the idea that the amount of laundry she did would cause the hydro bill to double. The landlord countered that 3 of the 4 people in the unit upstairs had moved out, so it could not have been the upper unit sucking up all that power.

The landlord then started making accusations that we were running a flophouse, and that there were more people living in the unit than she had agreed to. This was false, but due to the lack of any other possibilities, the landlord not only became convinced we have a bunch of people here, but that we are lying to her. Either that or we are doing something illegal.

This distrust has led the landlord to threaten that she was going to have to do monthly inspections, which raised the level of tension and led to more arguments and accusations.

We are on a six month lease which expires at the end of this month, although the lease does not say that we need to leave at the end, only that we become month-to-month. A couple days ago the landlord dropped off a new lease for us to sign, this one requiring us to vacate in two months.

Seeing as we have not done anything to warrant eviction (we have read the BC Residential Tenancy Act, and as long-time anti-poverty activists are well aware of our rights), and the original lease does not specify that we are to vacate at the end of the term, we are not obligated to leave.

At this point, the landlord has only a few options left to get us out of the unit. She can do a 'renoviction', but is obligated to do substantial improvements to the unit or be liable to be sued by us. She can move in by herself or she can move family members in.

If she evicts us for any of these reasons, and does not follow through, as in, doesn't do renovations or the people who move in are not her relatives, we can take our case to the Residential Tenancy Board. But we'd need someone to know that either the renovations didn't happen or that the people moving in are not her close family.

At this point I'll clarify the use of the word 'homeless' in the title.

The word homelessness is a broad term and can be understood on a continuum of types of shelter. On one end there is absolute homelessness, which includes only those living on the street or in emergency shelters. Hidden or concealed homelessness is in the middle of the continuum. These include people without a place of their own who live in a car, with family or friends, or in a long-term institution. At the

other end of the continuum is relative homelessness, which includes those who are housed but who reside in substandard shelter and/or who may be at risk of losing their homes. (My use of the word for this situation is slightly hyperbolic, but I am a propagandist, as all writers are, and the headline draws in the reader...)

We ARE at risk of losing our home. Not because we have been bad tenants, damaged anything or interfered with other tenants use of the property, but because a faulty smart meter has caused our landlord to become insane with suspicion of us to the point that heated arguments have ensued and a declaration that she intends to get us out of the unit had been stated.

We have just today forwarded the many articles that have been posted online about the many cases of overbilling that have been reported by people with smart meters. There is still hope that this can help heal the damaged relationship between us and our landlord, who insists that we have been 'very difficult' to deal with. It isn't even about the hydro bill anymore. Looking for reasons to back up her suspicion that we are pot-growers operating an underground bed and breakfast, she has criticized everything from how the furniture on the porch was arranged to the placement of a tea towel on the stove that she saw one day while on one of her spying missions.

We live in fear of this woman, who is always in a state



of agitation and accusation, and has asked the upstairs neighbours to keep tabs on the comings and goings at our home.

We have the law on our side but do not wish to live in a state of battle with the owner of the house, and will most likely be moving soon, despite really liking this house and neighbourhood. We don't have the time or energy to fight this, and we suspect she will do whatever she needs to do to remove us, and if it requires lying about renovations or her family moving in, we likely won't be able to find out whether she's lied or afford to sue if we did find out.

As I read about these smart meters I am finding there are a lot of suspicious things happening, the over-billing being just one of them.

Home-owners have the option to opt-out, but as renters, we have no choice. We take what we get. Even when we don't have to pay for utilities, we end up paying somehow for these things. And that's not even getting into the health effects, which admittedly I don't know much about.

Chris invites you to read an article in Common Ground for more information about the Smart Meters (commonground.ca/2012/05/smart-meter-agenda). Please visit his blog at bullsheet.wordpress.com, and consider purchasing a printed copy of his blog entries, or offering a donation for his efforts.



Not every
disabled person
uses
a wheelchair.
Not all disabilities
are visible.

Run!

by cyann ray

Victoria loves its runners. We move over when we see them coming. We close off major roads and entire neighbourhoods so thousands can run. We celebrate their achievements. But for people who can't run, for those who have difficulty even walking, there is no crowd cheering us on. And if you happen to be a mobility challenged, dog-owning, bike-rider, our fair (?) city supports a team of by-law enforcement officers eager to stop you.

While trapped on the south side of Dallas Road during Sunday's T/C marathon, a runner called out to me "Come on! Join us! It's only 2 more km!" Ya right. Here I was riddled with pain due to my disabilities, having to wait 90 minutes parked on a hard bench with my confused and patient dog. Since tearing the fascia muscle in my foot, walking is extremely painful and I've become even more dependent upon my bike. Some mornings, with a handful of meds, I'm able to walk my dog, although the rest of the day is spent with icepacks and hobbling around my apartment. "I can barely walk!" I shout back.

It seems now, however, I have no choice but to walk with my dog regardless of my level of pain. Apparently, it's illegal to use your bike to exercise your dog:

My 11+ yr. old dog was trained to be controlled on a "mental leash" due to my physical limitations. He is controlled by words. For most of his life, this was never an issue. For 8 years we lived across the street from Topaz Park, an off-leash area with a wonderful dog community. My dog's social and physical needs were easily met spending hours there each morning and night. But in March 2009 we had to leave our dog friendly neighbourhood.

I relocated to James Bay. A lovely neighbourhood with numerous trees, beautiful gardens, gorgeous heritage homes and so very close to our magnificent ocean coastline. A great place to live... unless you own a dog. Leaving our dog community was the worst part of moving. But I remained optimistic that every neighbourhood had such a place. I was shocked and disappointed to discover I was wrong. There are plenty of dogs in James Bay, but most are leash dependent and unsocialized. When these dogs are taken to an off-leash area, they often only come back to their owner if offered a treat. That's called negative reinforcement, not effective control. The trouble makers in the designated off-leash areas are the ones not used to being free.

If I was healthy and able to run, I could run with my dog and meet his physical needs. If I could walk at a good pace, I could keep up with keep his natural gait and use a leash. But I have been on a disability pension for nearly 14 years, (initially for my feet). Running is out of the question. Since losing our Topaz park routine 3 years ago, my physical health has plummeted and now walking is a challenge. I certainly can't keep up with my dog on foot. Anticipating my degenerative condition, we trained him early to trot along the sidewalk as I cycled on the road. There has never been a problem regarding control over my dog. Once a "mental leash" is established, it is 24/7 and never breaks.

On January 20/11 city council member Charlayne Thornton-Joe decided that exercising a dog using a bike should be illegal:

Minutes – Victoria City Council Meeting Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that Council direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Animal Control Bylaw that will:

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Photo from Bruce Dean

I am a visitor in Lkwungen Territory from Red River Cree Territory. To my street family, this one goes out to Cheyenne Billy, 1972 – 2012.

Hi, hothead here to say, I've been running off my feet, so to speak, since the premiere of *Taking The Falls Chapter One* screened at VIC Theatre. I want to thank everyone who has been a part of this film, and that is a lot of people. Suffice it to say, if it were not for Tami Turner and Silly, Kimmy and Rocket and the huge street family, I could not have gotten thru. I find the old skool ways are still alive and on a huge come back. We all have a story, often not pretty. What we have in common is an honor system that is old outlaw, and, when one is going to be an outlaw

and live outside of unjust

laws, one must be honest. As was our/my intention, we kept folks identities private where it was wanted and, with all due respect. So, in this old skool way...

The work continues with chapters two and three. Creating a full-length documentary was a bit of a surprise, but hey, life is full of surprises. It is my intention to have this same integrity with chapter two, community voices. That means everyone who came forward and was brave enough to share their vision, will be represented in their truth, not my version of it.

Much follow up is happening including tracking folks like Christopher and following up with others who we have met over this past year and a half like Frank B. who stated to me the other day in front of VIHA that he has never in his life had housing this long! I am happy for Frank! Kim is now moved and settling into housing downtown due to Cool Aid buying, emptying and I guess someday refilling the old Travellers Inn by RockBay Landing.

Art and creativity is at the top of my list and, I am honored to be helping bottom line Flags and Banners for the second annual Prisoner Justice Day coming up August 10, led by the street once again and from here on in. There are a few from the street helping to organize, thank you street family, we are leading in our freedom! We have art projects that we are going to announce soon, we just have to get it organized on the ground first.

So, I am going to ask for help.

If you are able to help me develop my blog, which will have a Transform Homelessness Advocacy Watch aspect not unlike "cop watch" as well as links to youtube with continued THAW projects, and, make it pretty, please get a hold of me. For now you can go to my Facebook account: "kym a. hines" to subscribe to my posts. I will update my blog as soon as I get help.

ask hothead

Unity is the work we have ahead of us. Unions seem to be thinking they'll be saved by leaders such as Jim Sinclair and different NDP leaders stepping forward. Well, sad that folks still believe in a system of leadership that does NOT include them being actively involved in their freedom. Many have no idea just how much common ground we stand on. This planet is shifting and so must we.

We, the 75 strong, on May 1st May Day had us march on!. Some had hearts dragging on ground, others anger huge from missing rank and file union members. I love the spirit of true leadership, we keep going, even when we wanta stop! We pick each other up. No judgment just harsh daily battle reality, often with ourselves.

Union flags and union people in terms of rank and file for some strange reason decided to stay home. More than likely living in a home the banks and government look forward to foreclosing on in the near future. Look south and see the near future. Or, change course rank and file! Do it before it's too late. I was a working person who had jobs. Our homeless were people who had "jobs." Some, like me, were even privileged to experience union jobs.

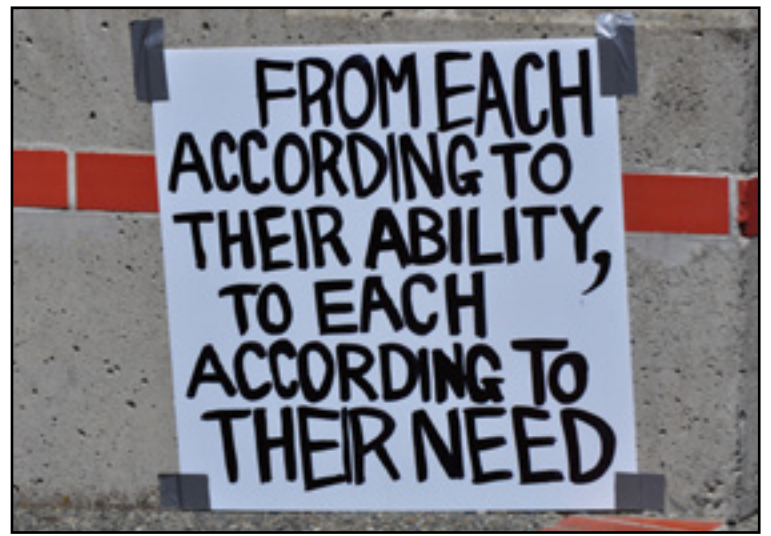
Unity is the theme all around as the Committee To End Homelessness Victoria continues to grow. We are excited to support Allan with his garden over at his second stage housing that he dug up himself and, managed to get great organic compost from Bobby Arbess. The Committee was happy to help and, it was Allan's own initiative that got his garden going! He may still be seeking plants if you have any to offer, tomatoes, potatoes and the like. Allan has a lot of great ideas that I'll let him share with you.

We face many challenges within much internal unrest, again, maybe a desire to change and grow stifled by systemic oppressions the likes of which we all suffer under and are too often dependent upon individual's kindness. Often seems to be beyond individual's ability to make change effectively, almost seems like oppression can push beyond any groups control? Ironically, we all have to step up. Each of us can make a difference and, it starts with me being more compassionate, keep some humility and never walk away from injustice, so, I guess life goes on for us all hey?

I honor those who are doing the work of healing and conflict resolution. Leaders around us stepping up, lets recognize them, like our Youth and, in this case, Native youth Lindsay Delaronde (Mohawk), Gitwilgyot Tsimshian (Laxan) and Bonnie Quaite (Lkwungen). Respect goes out to our Native Elders and all elders from all nations.

Unity. It is needed. Forgiveness, accountability, one cannot happen without the other. Plans of majic are afoot, God is alive.

kym hothead hines. small case, big vision.



Run!

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1. Prohibit a person from exercising a dog by allowing it to run next to a motor vehicle, other than a motorized wheelchair.
2. Prohibit a person from exercising a dog by allowing it to run next to a bicycle unless the dog is attached to the bicycle by an apparatus that allows the person to retain two-handed control of the bicycle at all times.

Without my bike, I am unable to meet my dog's physical needs. Without my bike, I am often simple housebound. It has been my mobility aid for about a decade. Several years ago I was in court fighting a by-law ticket for needing my bike to keep up with my dog at the only off-leash area we are able to get to (Dallas Road dog park). I had affidavits from all of my healthcare professionals testifying that I had physical restrictions and supporting the use of my bike for mobility. I won my court case.

Recently I have received two warnings for "unlawfully exercising dog with bike." The first was near mile zero, the off-leash boundary ... it was around 8 am and nobody was around. The 2nd, just 13 days later, a little after 7 am and mere moments from my back door. I tried to explain my situation to each of the officers who stopped me. One suggested I get a properly recognized mobility scooter. They cost about \$4,000. Being on a provincial disability, I believe this cost would be covered by taxpayers. It would take months of running around with paperwork and waiting for approval. So what happens in the meantime?

Another suggestion was to find some volunteer dog walker. My dog has spent his entire life with me and/or my ex, and has never been walked by a stranger. At almost 12, I would not consider this an option. It's hard to believe there is nothing else going on in Victoria requiring the services of by-law officers. The only "complaints" I've ever heard are things like "Gee....I sure wish my dog listened that well!"

Despite keeping my dog indoors most days from 9 am - 6 pm, it's just a matter of time before I get another ticket. I will file a dispute with the help from the Action Committee for People Living with Disabilities. The trouble is, I fear the lengthy, stressful task of disputing a ticket is now beyond my ability. I feel that concessions should be made for people living with disabilities and that I be left alone rather than targeted. My dog is nearly 12...do the math. And I would leave James Bay before getting another.

Charlayne's response to my situation was unimpressive. It was as if she was simply rattling off form answers. Let me be perfectly clear: I am not riding my bike and making my old, arthritic dog keep up with me. I am using my bike so that I may keep up with him. Big difference! When I am able to walk, outings are short and s l o w . Leashing my dog and making him walk at my crippled gait is awkward and uncomfortable for both of us. Besides, after a decade of complete obedience, to tie a rope around his neck and force him to walk at my snail's pace would be cruel.

I have contacted the mayor and offered several solutions: provide off-leash green spaces within every neighbourhood (it seems ludicrous to me that folks must use their cars to walk their dogs!); change the wording of the by-law to "dogs must be under control at all times" since control is what matters and leashes are no guarantee of control; provide a "grace period" before 8:30 am and after 7 pm when leashes are optional; recognize my bike as a required mobility aid; instruct by-law officers to only intervene when there is actually a problem. Any of these would work.

Since I remain disabled and my dog still requires regular outings, this matter is unresolved. Dog lovers who feel as I do that the current by-laws regarding dog ownership are needlessly restrictive, and that enforcement leans on harassment, should speak up. For many of us, our dogs are paramount to our existence; mine is the reason I get up each morning. It's a shame our city works against this union. I know I'll have to find support and reach a bigger/better audience to resolve this matter. I also know I won't be able to run away.



Truth and Reconciliation – First Nations Style

by Jennifer Hastie

I was waiting for several months to attend our historical Truth and Reconciliation Committee hearing, held April 13 and 14, 2012, at the Victoria Conference Centre. Even in Port Alberni, 500 people turned out to give testimony and to witness the testimony of former students from the Indian residential schools; therefore, our Victoria event was bound to be even bigger.

The *Times Colonist* newspaper reported that on April 13, 2012, “thousands” of Aboriginal and Non-aboriginal people were present.

I was really pleased and proud to learn that our NuuchahNulth people played an important part in organizing and facilitating this important occasion. There were many down from Port Alberni as well as from points west and north of Port Alberni. They were organizing, running, and paying witness to the testimonies. I found the event extremely well organized. At the end of the second day, 158 statements of survivors had been gathered, the TRC’s legal mandate for existence.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, B.C.’s well known and respected watchdog for all youth, was also participating in the program. Ms Turpel-Lafond, a Métis from back East, commented in her address to the audience that the size of the TRC has expanded as it goes into the final two years of its mandate. No one could have predicted that this would happen.

“We are always challenged, emotionally, physically, and spiritually,” Justice Sinclair reported to the crowd in one of his addresses. Indeed, it must be exhausting for the Commission to conduct such an emotional series of hearings across Canada.

Justice Sinclair (photo, right) opened the Conference with these comments: “The damaged relationship between the Colonialists and the First Nations peoples needs to be addressed. We need to identify that path with a new relationship founded on mutual respect.” Finally, speaking to the non-native population, he said, “Your children, as well as ours, are ‘miseducated.’ And the damage continues.”

Ed John, Grand Chief of the First Nations Summit of B.C. gave an emotional speech to the crowd. “You are the evidence of the truth that needs to be told,” he said to survivors. He said to all of us, using a phrase from an Eagles’ rock song, “...You can check out but you can’t leave.” Finally, “We must turn to our ancestors, our land, that place that gives strength to our children.”

At the end of the first day, many participants spoke of the need to get the message out to the rest of the world about the horrors of the Residential School experiences. Justice Sinclair remarked that we all have a duty “to carry the message forward to others.”

On the second day, in the morning, I missed the opening address. I learned that the crowd became very upset with two Roman Catholic priests who were speaking and who apparently began re-victimizing survivors. The priests upset the audience so much that many people became angry and others began crying. Some even required counselling support to regain their composure.

When I heard about this development, I tracked down a minister who I thought was a Catholic priest but who turned out to be an Anglican. I asked him what had gone wrong that morning. His take on the event was that the priests were concerned that recognition was not given to the “good things” about the residential schools, and that they were worried

that teachers who came later, were not given credit for being “good people.” When I heard that the priests said that, I thought (to myself): does that make it okay to say what they did to the group? Was it worth it?

In 1991, the United and Anglican churches formally apologised to our First Nations’ Peoples regarding their role in the residential schools. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese refused to apologise. The Catholic Archdiocese ran 60% of the Canadian residential schools. Again, in the year 2011, they refused to apologise.

On the second day of the conference, there were four young lawyers from the U.S.A., researchers, giving reports. They provided some interesting data on International human rights: The United Nation’s Declaration of Human Rights has taken 40+ years to reach the first conviction on genocide. This was in Rwanda in 1994. The United Nations is currently looking at Canada to see if our residential schools may have committed genocide. Canada finally endorsed the United Nations’ Declaration of Human Rights of Indigenous peoples in 2011, later than most of the rest of the world.

“Racism still goes on,” commented one of the people.

At the end of the conference, Justice Sinclair again touched the heart of the people by giving thanks to those of us, approximately one thousand, “who are still here listening” at the close of the second day (7 p.m.) He also spoke of the need to forgive those survivors who may have victimized the next generation of peoples. “We need to forgive survivors who did this. It is not their fault.”

FUTURE EVENTS: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is having a huge gathering on June 21 – 24, 2012. 20,000 – 30,000 people are expected.

Finally, in Vancouver, B.C., September 18 – 21, 2013, one of seven national events will be held. I eagerly wait for that event. It is destined to be huge, and I am excited about it already!

Jennifer is a healthy, active senior who enjoys writing volunteer articles for various publications.



Protect Your Brain, Think Critically!

by Robert Arnold

“Chew your food!” I’ll bet you heard that a lot from your mother. Now you know she was right and that to properly digest and assimilate your food you must chew it properly. The same principle operates for the information you take in. If you “wolf down” information without chewing it you end up being very misinformed and doing things that are against your own interests and sometimes even dangerous. To protect yourself, you need to learn to think critically about all the information to which you are exposed.

Learning to think critically is not a hard job. When I learned a more formalized, better organized procedure for critical thinking I enjoyed it very much. Hopefully, you will too. I am going to give you a quick course; and you can follow it up with more learning about critical thinking if you want.

I was taught seven questions that lead to a critical analysis of information. The information may be in a newspaper, on TV, in a magazine or being babbled in your ear by radio, a friend or an opponent in an argument. It can be an advertisement or a political speech.

Question 1: What is the main purpose of the author? The answer to this question usually easily found on first reading of the information. There may be more than one purpose both obvious and hidden. I like to list all of the purposes I can imagine for an article and then prioritize them by their importance. When you know what the author is trying to do, the way it is done becomes more obvious. You can also decide which purposes are beneficial to yourself and others and which are actually injurious.

Question 2: What is the key question asked by the author? Is the author asking you to believe something? Is the author asking you to do something? Is the author asking you to feel something? This is a part of the reason the author created the advertisement or article. Knowing the author’s reason for creating a piece of work allows you to make more informed decisions about the information.

Question 3: What is the important information in the piece? There could be a lot of information in the piece; but knowing what the author’s purpose was and the reason the author was creating it in this particular form will assist you in telling the difference between the important information and information that is not so important. The author may be hiding the important information like mom used to hide the aspirin in the honey. The important information will support the thesis or main point of the piece. It will be the evidence with which the author intends to convince you of his or her point. I like to highlight the important information so that I can refer back to it easily.

Question 4: What are the main inferences or conclusions that the author wants you to draw from the evidence? Can you infer from the piece that something is true or untrue about the world? Can you draw a conclusion that something is right or wrong about the world? In other words, what you think he or she expects you to understand or think from reading the piece?

Question 5: What are the main assumptions the author makes in the piece? Assumptions are the things the author says without supporting them with evidence, or at least with strong evidence. You must be aware of the assumptions the author makes so that you can figure out if they are believable assumptions, logical assumptions; or glib flights of fantasy he or she wants you to swallow without chewing. You can tell a lot about the author and their point of view by examining the assumptions they make.

Question 6a: If the author is serious and I take the piece seriously, what are the implications for my life and for the world? Will people seriously decide to support a certain political position, for instance, if one has been put forward and they take it seriously? If people take the article seriously will they adopt an attitude about some issue; and would you agree with that attitude or not? It is necessary to figure out if the author is serious and what serious people might do as a result of the article.

Question 6b: If the author is not serious and/or I don’t take the article seriously what are the implications? If the article is, for instance, ridiculing some attitude about an issue, does it actually make the issue ridiculous? Does it make some person seem less important or less reasonable? Ask yourself about your own thoughts and how they might change if you don’t take the author seriously.

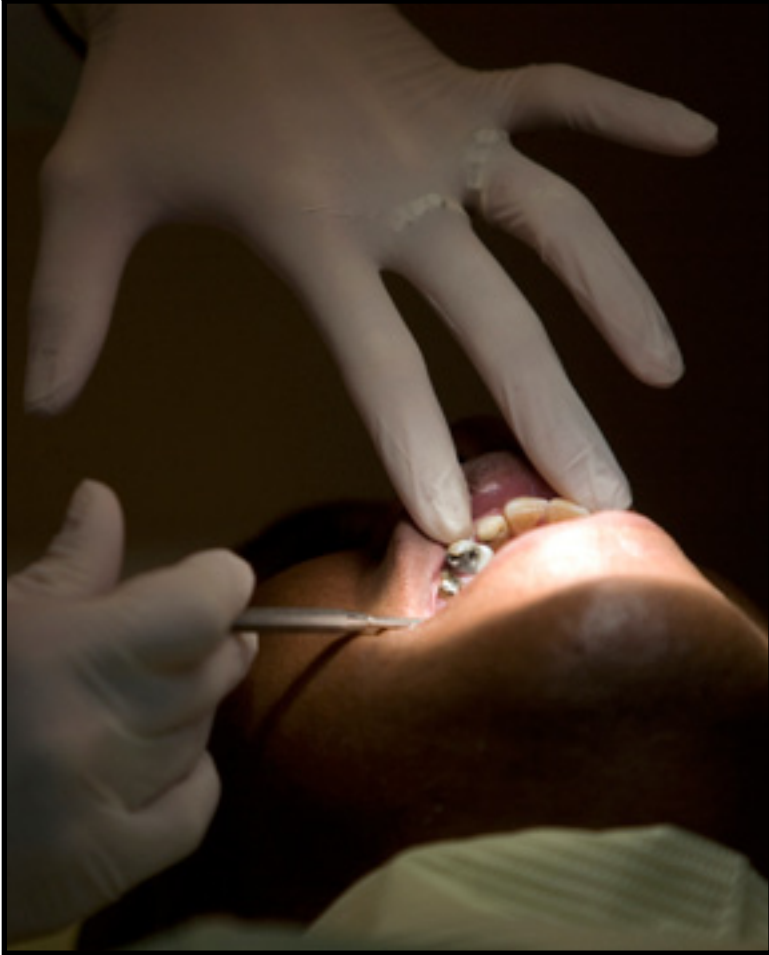
Question 7: What are the points of view in the article? What is the author’s point of view? How is he or she looking at the issue? Where are they standing when they are looking at the issue? Are they standing far from the issue and being dispassionate, logical and impartial? Are they writing from a political right or left position? Are they taking the part of the Loser or the Victor? Are they for or against something? These things are important to know, so that you know if you agree or disagree.

Now that you’ve asked and answered the questions you should have a pretty good idea of where you stand in relation to the information, the author and the magazine or other source of information. Reading some sources over a period of time and using critical thinking will let you know what bias is usually in the source or what positions it usually supports. Just remember to chew your information, especially when you suspect someone is trying to convince you of something that may or may not be so. Do not believe or accept anything until you have thought about it critically and made up your own mind if it is believable or acceptable. Finally, if it doesn’t taste good spit it out!

Robert has fought poverty, his own and others, for over 45 years.

Top Ten Reasons to Support Mercury Free Dentistry

published at www.toxicteeth.org, photo REUTERS/Tomas Bravo



1. Amalgam pollutes our environment

Amalgam pollutes 1) water via dental clinic releases and human waste; 2) air via cremation, dental clinic emissions, sludge incineration, and respiration; and 3) land via landfills, burials, and fertilizer.[i] Once in the environment, dental mercury converts to its even more toxic form: methylmercury and becomes a major source of mercury in the fish people eat.[ii] Dental mercury in the environment can cause brain damage and neurological problems, especially for children and the unborn babies, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.[iii]

2. Amalgam endangers our health

Amalgam emits mercury vapor even after it is implanted into the body. This mercury is bioaccumulative, and it crosses the placenta to accumulate in fetuses as well. Dental amalgam's mercury is a known health risk, especially for children, fetuses, nursing infants, and people with impaired kidney function especially.[iv] Even the U.S. Food and Drug Administration concedes that the developing neurological systems of children and fetuses are more susceptible to "the neurotoxic effects of mercury vapor" – and that there is no evidence that amalgam is safe for these populations.[1]

3. Amalgam damages teeth

Placing amalgam requires the removal of a significant amount of healthy tooth matter. This removal, in turn, weakens overall tooth structure which increases the need for future dental work.[2] On top of that, amalgam fillings – which expand and contract over time – crack teeth and once again create the need for still more dental work.[3]

4. Amalgam endangers dental workers

Due to mercury exposure from amalgam in the workplace, studies have shown that dental workers have elevated systemic mercury levels.[4] Few of these dental workers – mostly women of child-bearing age – are given protective garb or air masks to minimize their exposure to mercury; many are not aware of the risks of occupational mercury exposure. As a result, dental workers have reported neurological problems, reproductive failures, and birth defects caused by amalgam in the workplace.[5]

5. Amalgam is frequently implanted without informed consent

Most dentists do not inform consumers that amalgam contains mercury. As a result, over 76% of consumers do not know that amalgam is mainly mercury according to Zogby polls.[6] But once they are informed, 77% of people do not want mercury fillings – and they were even willing to pay more to avoid this unnecessary source of mercury exposure.[7]

6. Amalgam perpetuates social injustice

While middle class consumers opt for mercury-free filling materials, people in developing nations, low-income families, minorities, Native Americans, military personnel, prisoners, and people with disabilities are still subjected to amalgam. In his testimony before Congress, former Virginia state NAACP president Emmitt Carlton described this injustice as "choice for the rich, mercury for the poor." A recent study shows that while African-American and white numbers are comparable, a disproportionately high percentage of Hispanics and Native Americans still get amalgam. Of course, any child still getting amalgam is too many.

7. Amalgam costs taxpayers

Taxpayers foot the bill for the environmental clean-up of amalgam and the medical care associated with mercury-related health problems. Meanwhile, the dentists who dump their mercury into our environment and our bodies are not held financially responsible.

8. Amalgam is diverted to illegal gold mining

Amalgam is commonly shipped to developing countries labeled for dental use, but then it is diverted to illegal use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. [8] Not only are the miners exposed to the risks of mercury poisoning, but the dental mercury they use to extract gold is released into the environment.[9]

9. Amalgam can be replaced by mercury-free filling materials

Amalgam is interchangeable with numerous other filling materials – including resin composites, compomers, and glass ionomers – that have rendered amalgam completely unnecessary for any clinical situation. In fact, the mercury-free alternatives have made amalgam so non-essential that entire nations, such as the Scandinavian countries, have banned the use of amalgam.[10]

The American Dental Association spreads the myth that amalgam costs less, but according to the dental cost calculator recommended by the ADA itself, <http://www.ada.org/news/6028.aspx>, it is always cheaper to get resin in front teeth and only slightly more (and sometimes less) to get resin in back teeth. <http://www.fairhealthconsumer.org/> Developing nations have benefitted from modern mercury-free techniques, such as atraumatic restorative treatment (ART), which costs but half as much as amalgam and can be done by trained non-dentists, hence making dental care more accessible for children.[11] The ADA, fearful of losing its monopoly position, opposes it. The beneficiaries of amalgam are not patients or parents, but the dentists who get quick and easy profits.

10. Amalgam drives up the price of mercury-free alternatives

The continued use of amalgam keeps the price of mercury-free filling materials high by decreasing demand for these alternatives. As use of mercury-free materials increases, their price is expected to decrease even further.[12]

Sources:

[1] Final Rule for Dental Amalgam, <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/DentalProducts/DentalAmalgam/UCM174024.pdf> (p.32).

[2] Terry L. Meyers, When less is more — Technology increases minimally invasive procedures, Dental Economics, http://www.dentaleconomics.com/index/display/article-display/6295266301/articles/dental-economics/volume-100/issue-5/columns/when-less_is_more.html (explaining that "with the resins and composites developed over the past 30 years, we don't have to remove nearly as much tooth structure as we did when using amalgam. Before these new materials with their bonding capacity came along, in some cases dentists had to take out the whole back side of the tooth to get enough amalgam in there to work.").

[3] Davis MW, Nesbitt WE. The wedge effect: structural design weakness of Class II amalgam. AACD J

1997;13(3):62-8, <http://www.smilesofsantafe.com/pdfs/WedgeEffect.pdf>.

[4] Marcelo Tomás de Oliveira et. al., Effects from Exposure to Dental Amalgam on Systemic Mercury Levels in Patients and Dental School Students, Photomedicine and Laser Surgery (October 2010, Vol. 28, No. S2: S-111-S-114), <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/pho.2009.2656>

[5] See Mercury Policy Project, Neurotoxic Effects of Mercury in Dental Nurses (7 September 2006), <http://mpp.cclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/fdadentalmpnnorwayfinal0907061.pdf>

[6] Zogby poll, <http://www.toxicteeth.org/Zogby%20Poll-Results%202006.pdf>

[7] Zogby poll, <http://www.toxicteeth.org/Zogby%20Poll-Results%202006.pdf>

[8] U.S. Geological Survey, Peru Mercury Inventory (2006), p. 18, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1252/ofr2007-1252.pdf> (describing how dental supply shops in Peru sell amalgam to customers without any professional documentation, noting that several gold shops are nearby).

[9] Norimitsu Onishi, In Rush to Find Gold, Indonesians Defy Dangers, New York Times (7 July 2011), <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/08/world/asia/08indo.html>

[10] See Bio Intelligence Service/European Commission, Review of the Community Strategy Concerning Mercury (p.229), 4 October 2010, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/pdf/review_mercury_strategy2010.pdf

[11] Pan American Health Organization, Oral Health of Low Income Children: Procedures for Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (PRAT) (2006), 53, http://new.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2009/OH_top_PT_low06.pdf ("The costs of employing the PRAT [procedures for atraumatic restorative treatment] approach for dental caries treatment, including retreatment, are roughly half the cost of amalgam without retreatment.").

[12] United Nations Environmental Programme, Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area Business Plan (2008) (noting that "it is certain that the cost of alternative dental fillings will continue to decrease.").

[i] See Michael Bender, Mercury Policy Project, Facing Up to the Hazards of Mercury Tooth Fillings: A Report to the U.S. House of Representatives Government Oversight Subcommittee on Domestic Policy (8 July 2008), <http://mpp.cclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/finalreportfrommpptestimony0707082.pdf> (provides a description of the multiple pathways by which dental mercury reaches our water, air, and soil).

[ii] See United States Environmental Protection Agency, News Release (27 September 2010), <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/a640db2ebad201cd852577ab00634848!OpenDocument>

[iii] See United States Environmental Protection Agency, News Release (27 September 2010), <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/a640db2ebad201cd852577ab00634848!OpenDocument>

[iv] Health Canada, The Safety of Dental Amalgam, http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/md-im/applic-demande/pubs/dent_amalgam-eng.php; U.S. FDA transcript, amalgam advisory panel meeting, 14-15 December 2010, <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AdvisoryCommittees/CommitteesMeeting-Materials/MedicalDevices/MedicalDevicesAdvisoryCommittee/DentalProductsPanel/UCM242363.pdf>

Dental

another sick farse, another
creature stabs around
inside my mouth
like they're drilling for oil
between my yellowed
and cracked teeth.... "Floss, you must
floss, who last cleaned these?" Its some kind
of vanity, seems a race to
be the Sadist who
gets the deepest scratch
at my swollen gums. I'm trapped
under the buzz and the lights
and the sudden certainty
Im being conned into constant torture
I have the priviledge
to pay for...

j. fisher

A Problem Without Borders

by Stefano Leonardi

Hong Kong one of the freest most dynamic economies in the world.

Hong Kong's stock market ranked the 3rd largest in the world in terms of market capitalism.

Hong Kong's private sector bond market is one of the largest and most liquid in the region.

Hong Kong has virtually no public debt and a sound banking system.

It's the largest venture capital centre in Asia and the second largest source of direct investment in Asia.

Hong Kong is the world's second largest exporter of electronic goods.

Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, with over 7 million people packed into 423 square feet trying to get by.

Hong Kong has the highest income inequality among the world's most advanced economies.

A minimum wage has just finally been implemented at 28 hk dollars an hour.

To celebrate Chinese New Year 2012 on 22 January 8.8 million hk dollars was spent on fireworks.

One in five people now live in poverty in Hong Kong, an estimated 2 million.

Hong Kong's government had such a surplus of cash last year that it could afford to give every registered housed resident over 18 years old 6,000hkd as a gift.



One reason for the rise in people living in poverty in HK is due to having lost jobs during the last financial crisis. People find themselves now unable to afford rents or pay off credit cards, and families are finding it difficult to keep elderly, disabled or mentally ill relatives. This has resulted in some family members spending days and nights trying to get by on the streets, begging for food and/or money as an extra means of income or actually having to make the decision to leave home to alleviate themselves as a burden. They often end up living in cardboard boxes, sleeping outside all night convenience stores, on street corners, under motorway flyovers, on stairwells, collecting cardboard from the streets and rubbish bins to use as shelter or to sell to recycling plants for small payments.

Another reason is that inflated rising rent costs and low income jobs are a norm in this densely populated metropolis.

Disturbing factors regarding the situation is the lack of any kind of powerful help organizations or any means for the registered homeless or people in extreme poverty within the city to try and improve their position even slightly.

Another factor that doesn't sit easy is the extreme of wealth vs. poverty operating in such close proximity, the seemingly unbounded affluence and rampant consumerism within the cities with many interconnecting shopping malls, which, daily are crowded from morning till closing time at 11pm, selling luxury goods as the city's poor seek shelter and beg underneath escalators and walkways. The reasons for these interconnecting air conditioned shopping malls is so you don't need to go outside if you so desire as the extremes of temperature and humidity can be unbearable for 9 months of the year. Try sleeping rough and living on the streets in those

conditions when you and your clothing are permanently soaking wet from the heat, humidity, or tropical downpours which can lead to chronic infections.

In a way Hong Kong has advanced so rapidly economically, and as an infrastructure of entrepreneurial success over the past two decades, is because of its strategic position, its increasingly open global trade and financial system. If you as an individual don't have the mind set to be singular about your own advancement in Hong Kong's cutthroat brand of competitive capitalism you can very easily fall out of this society's mainstream expectations and end up in any number of no minimum wage limit, dead end cycle of jobs (minimum wage just implemented in 2011 for unskilled workers). The alternative to that choice? Just take a look around on the streets.

So, Hong Kong, where does it go now? Yes it's a thriving, energetic city, with a very good working structure to sustain, advance, and grow economically, with foreign workers with the right skills and qualifications continually moving here from countries around the world and earning more than they could ever imagine in their own backyards, but what about the rising population of locals sleeping rough with little chance of finding their way back into society? What about low income families having to send relatives, many elderly or disabled, onto the streets to beg to help pay rent?

Amid the affluence it seems the city's urban poor are nearly invisible.

For more information about the Hong Kong economic situation visit www.hktdc.com and look under economic and trade situation.

Stefano Leonardi (www.stefanoleonardiphotography.com) is a photographer working in Hong Kong. His photo and article are to be used one time only for publication in the Victoria Street Newz magazine and related website.

Declaration of the Occupation of New York City

This document was accepted by the NYC General Assembly on September 29, 2011

As we gather together in solidarity to express a feeling of mass injustice, we must not lose sight of what brought us together. We write so that all people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world can know that we are your allies.

As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power. We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality, run our governments. We have peaceably assembled here, as is our right, to let these facts be known.

They have taken our houses through an illegal foreclosure process, despite not having the original mortgage.

They have taken bailouts from taxpayers with impunity, and continue to give Executives exorbitant bonuses.

They have perpetuated inequality and discrimination in the workplace based on age, the color of one's skin, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.

They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization.

They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals, and actively hide these practices.

They have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate for better pay and safer working conditions.

They have held students hostage with tens of thousands of dollars of debt on education, which is itself a human right.

They have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay.

They have influenced the courts to achieve the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility.

They have spent millions of dollars on legal teams that look for ways to get them out of contracts in regards to health insurance.

They have sold our privacy as a commodity.

They have used the military and police force to prevent freedom of the press.

They have deliberately declined to recall faulty products endangering lives in pursuit of profit.

They determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures their policies have produced and continue to produce.

They have donated large sums of money to politicians, who are responsible for regulating them.

They continue to block alternate forms of energy to keep us dependent on oil.

They continue to block generic forms of medicine that could save people's lives or provide relief in order to protect investments that have already turned a substantial profit.

They have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit.

They purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through their control of the media.

They have accepted private contracts to murder prisoners even when presented with serious doubts about their guilt.

They have perpetuated colonialism at home and abroad.

They have participated in the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas.

They continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government contracts.*

To the people of the world,

We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power.

Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone.

To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal.

Join us and make your voices heard!

*These grievances are not all-inclusive.

This document is available in many languages at www.nycga.net/resources/declaration, where there is also a visual representation of this document from the Arts and Culture Group and the Call to Action Working Group.

Where the 'True Hope that Makes Your Sanity Invincible' Lays

It is not knowledge that makes you a God-thing. You've always been a God-thing. Its just that God-things are represented by the naïve as well as the wise.

The curse
with loving truth
is that you must make time.

Oh, of all the blessings,
this one
outshines them all
as the most annoying.

Its the one that we
in our lack of grace
rant as mad prophets
and the weirder ones
who,
in not being able to turn off their third eyes,
birthpuke their true angel selves
out of their foreheads
until they
self-destruct
or
blossom

May the world have patience with both.

The hard to define things in the world can always be defined as hard to define.

Its not just your universe, the universe is you.

the same as with everyone, ever

The experience that made you has no beginning and is your only momentum.

the same as with everyone, ever

You see where I'm going with this?

Pretty much when we see the truth,
that there is no evil
we can spend all the time we might normally spend on hating
on practicing our superpowers
because now we know
when someone is trying to make us scared
they are just kids pretending to be psychotic because that
is how they learned
to get stuff.

Patience be with us as we discover the fire is an illusion.

by David A. Johnston, who is not currently imprisoned for his efforts to raise awareness about the Right to Sleep. He's leaving June 1st to hitch-hike across Canada and share information about the BC Supreme Court decision which found a city bylaw (preventing homeless people from erecting shelter to protect themselves from the elements when the shelters are full) to be in violation of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Trees Get Lonely Too

I climbed the forbidden tree
and I sat in her great arms
the sign said not to climb [i]
but that was their sign
not hers
She welcomed me in her limbs
and cradled me
like she had done for so many
others
through generations
how many creatures
took refuge in her body?
How many have been held by
her arms?
protected
embraced
I knew it was ok to climb
she welcomed me in
could not hear her voice
with my ear
but I knew
because she told me
I heard her voice
felt her voice
with my heart
not my mind
we shared those few moments
me and this ancient being
and I felt her loneliness
separated from her community
Like I am separated
this ancient spirit
who once knew wildness
who has lived for generations
and seen and felt so much
now left behind almost alone
on a manicured lawn
no friends within reach
this ancient being
now a lawn ornament
for fucking tourists to look at
so we can pretend we still have
nature
tokenized
a decoration
on the lawn of the house of
power and wealth
in a manufactured zoo
that we call home
now I write her a poem
on a scrap of tree
flesh of another
killed for our consumption
bleached and dyed
died and dead

[i] This tree lives on what is now the lawn of the BC Legislature. In Victoria there is actually a bylaw against climbing trees ... however in the true anarchist tradition, that never stopped me.

I have for many years now been a strong believer that humans belong in the trees.

Comrade Black



Happy Birthday, Human Exchange Society!



YOU are invited to join us for our 20th Birthday Celebration and Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 2nd
1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Chown Place Hall, 3060 Harriet Rd.
(Please park on Road)

We have again invited Rose Henry to speak to us on this big occasion. Wendy Stewart, entertainer from Comox, who works with people who are homeless, has again kindly accepted an invitation to sing and speak to us. The 20th Birthday Cake will be baked by Broadmead Thrifty Foods (thanks Wes).

Thanks to the generosity of the Chown Place Fellowship

If possible, please bring finger food and a gift for the Gift table

As ours is a grass-roots Society, we want several Directors who personally know the challenges of poverty/unemployment/addiction/ mental illness.

If you are willing to serve, please contact us at:
Victoria: 250-857-3905: Linda. 250-920-5056,
Patricia 250-668-6008-in Nanaimo.

VHES (www.humanx.org) is simply a partnership of human beings
- all with gifts to be shared and exchanged with those in need -
and by supporting one another, we grow together
towards a healthier community.

Site C Dam Update *from Don Startin*

The federal/provincial assessment panel for the Site C Dam Project has begun its work by drawing up a draft set of guidelines on how it will carry out its mandate, and what it will consider. This documentation is in some hardcover binders in public libraries in the area near the proposed dam. I was not able to get a look at one before deadline. Part of its title includes the words "Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines."

In the towns that have a copy of the document there will have been an open house to discuss the guidelines, where anybody can submit. The local environmental organizations will have also put on anti dam demonstrations outside each hearing.

The rest of us will have to submit in writing via email at eao.gov.bc.ca. However, I would recommend a snailmail letter to the Environmental Assessment Office, PO Box 9426, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC, V8W 9V2. By JUNE 1ST. For assistance contact Sundanu Dalal 250-387-9745.

The stalwarts at the Peace Valley Environment Association have submitted a list of aspects of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that indicate, to me, that it has some holes in it you could drive a bus through. Here is a list of them condensed and simplified.

THE EIS:

- must establish boundaries that take into account the diffuse range of large animals, and impacts beyond the area of the project.
- must include sustainable development, the precautionary approach, allowances for meaningful public input, and the use of local and traditional knowledge.
- demonstrate a need for the project.
- include discussion of loss of ALR lands.
- changes to microclimate and biodiversity
- the absurdity of wrecking a valuable and viable ecosystem to produce fuel to produce more greenhouse gases.

The B.C. Environment Assessment Office tell me that the final hearings will take place during the winter of 2013/2014. However I'm afraid the latest federal budget may cause things to speed up, and disqualify many people from presenting.



Part of what activists call Canada's "Mass Incarceration Agenda," along with the new Omnibus Crime Bill, Edmonton's new Remand Centre (short term stay, no rehabilitation) nears completion. Over 9000 similar cells are under construction at 60 different sites across Canada. This one will "house 1,952 inmates in seven pods of living units" with provisions for expansion to 2,816 inmates in 10 different pods (<http://tinyurl.com/bttalc>). The Surrey Remand Centre will employ guards and administration, everything else is privatized.

The Street Newz Vendor Team

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Upper Causeway



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James Bay Thrifty's



Steve
Blanshard St.



Trish
Esquimalt

Where Your \$\$\$\$ Goes



Vendors pay 50 cents for each Street Newz .
Whatever you give them is theirs to keep.

Thank you for supporting independent media. May money from the sale of this newspaper be used for peace, and pass through healing hands.

Vancity



	Mar	Apr	May
Street Newz Revenue			
Paper Sales (from previous mth)	281.50	159.50	382.50
Donations	785.00	270.00	10.00
Gifts (incl in-kind)	160.00	140.00	40.00
Co-ordinator's Contribution	101.79	312.38	78.43
Subscriptions	35.00	210.00	105.00
Bread & Roses Donation to SNZ	800.00	800.00	800.00
Total Street Newz Revenue	2163.29	1891.88	1415.93
Street Newz Expenses			
Salaries	800.00	800.00	800.00
Paper & Printing Costs	350.40	352.00	350.40
Office expenses/website	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor/Writer Meetings	23.00	95.00	75.00
Postage	71.89	74.08	77.53
Ttl Street Newz Expenses	1253.29	1321.88	1310.93
Street Newz	910.00	570.00	105.00
Bread & Roses Revenue			
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bread & Roses Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bread & Roses Expenses			
Street Newz Donation	800.00	800.00	800.00
Ttl Bread & Roses Expenses	800.00	800.00	800.00
Bread & Roses	-800.00	-800.00	-800.00
Consolidated Ttl (SNZ + B&R)	110.00	-230.00	-695.00
Bread & Roses Bank Balance	7912.16	7237.16	6552.16
Conference Fund	110.00	110.00	110.00

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Subscription Rates (12 issues/year):

Electronic	Regular	Low Income	USA	Int'l
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Donations keep us Independent:

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